

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3686

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PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS MAY 20 MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON
AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICAN TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. YOUNG'S MAPUTO SPEECH DREW MIXED REACTION ACCORDING TO
MEDIA REPORTS. KAUFMAN (NYTIMES) WRITES "SPEECH WAS RE-
CEIVED WITH SOME POLITE RESERVE AND MORE OPEN DISPLEASURE."
KAUFMAN QUOTES NIGERIAN UN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN AS BEING
'VERY DISAPPOINTED' AND THAT IT HAD BEEN 'IRRITATING' TO
LISTEN TO A LECTURE ON CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA. UPI
DISPATCH SAYS YOUNG TRIED "TO PERSUADE HIS AUDIENCE TO BACK
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND PEACE INITIATIVES," BUT DID NOT
SEEM TO CONVINCE SOME BLACKS SUCH AS LIBERATION LEADER
MUGABE WHO SAID: 'I DON'T SEE ANY CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY'
RANDAL (WPOST) WRITES YOUNG'S "LENGTHY INVOCATION
OF ... MODERATION ... LEFT MANY OF HIS BLACK AFRICAN
LISTENERS UNCONVINCED, DISAPPOINTED AND EVEN ANGRY."
YOUNG APPEARS, WRITES RANDAL, "TO HAVE IRRITATED SOME
OF HIS CLOSEST AFRICAN ASSOCIATES IN A SPEECH THAT AIDES
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CONCEDED WAS AIMED MAINLY AT A DOMESTIC AMERICAN AUDIENCE."
HE QUOTES HARRIMAN AS SAYING: 'ONE COULD HAVE HOPED THAT
ANDREW YOUNG WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONFERENCE AND
NOT LECTURE US ON CIVIL RIGHTS.... I WOULD HAVE LISTENED
10 YEARS AGO WITH SOME PATIENCE, BUT INSTEAD I LISTENED
TODAY WITH CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION.' RANDAL CONTINUES,
"MORE OMINOUSLY" FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE IS

THAT THE SPEECH "APPEARED TO HAVE COMPROMISED WESTERN HOPES OF AVOIDING THE KIND OF RADICAL RESOLUTIONS THE MAJOR WESTERN POWERS COULD NOT ENDORSE FOR FEAR OF UNDERMINING THEIR OWN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA." LOU CIOFFI (ABC-TV) REPORTS THE SPEECH "WAS GIVEN WARM APPLAUSE AND FOR MANY IT WAS REALLY WHAT THEY WANTED TO HEAR." HOWEVER, SOME "WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, ESPECIALLY THE MILITANTS WHO PREFER ARMED STRUGGLE." ABC THEN RAN BRIEF FILM CLIP OF ROBERT MUGABE EXPRESSING HIS DISAPPROVAL OF THE SPEECH, SAYING 'I DON'T SEE ANYTHING SUBSTANTIAL IN IT.' CIOFFI STATES: "BUT EVEN MEN LIKE MR. MUGABE" REALIZE YOUNG'S WORDS "HAVE HAD AN EFFECT." IT IS GOING TO BE "MORE DIFFICULT" TO GET SUPPORT FOR ALL OUT ARMED STRUGGLE AS LONG AS "THERE IS A CHANCE AT NEGOTIATIONS. IF THAT'S ALL THAT MR. YOUNG CAME HERE TO MAPUTO FOR, HE VERY WELL HAS SUCCEEDED." SCHMEMANN (AP) REPORTS THE ADDRESS "WAS LOUDLY APPLAUDED" BUT "INDIVIDUAL REACTIONS RANGED FROM MILD PRAISE TO DOWN-RIGHT DISAPPOINTMENT." THE MILITANT LEADERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS WERE YOUNG'S "HARSHEST CRITICS," ACCORDING TO AP. IN ADDITION TO QUOTING HARRIMAN, SCHMEMANN REPORTS THAT MUGABE CALLED YOUNG'S SPEECH 'HOLLOW' AND THAT YOUNG'S TALK OF A REVOLUTION IN AFRICAN LIFE WAS A 'PRETENSE.' JUNE GOODWIN (CSMONITOR) IN HER STORY ALSO QUOTES THE NEGATIVE REACTION OF AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN. RANDY DANIELS, CBS EVENING NEWS, REPORTS YOUNG "APPEARED TO BE SOFTENING HIS BRAND OF PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AND WAS CLEARLY TRYING TO SELL THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S AFRICA FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY," BUT THE SPEECH GOT A MIXED REACTION AND HE THEN ALSO QUOTES MUGABE.

3. IN LATER STORY, UPI REPORTS THAT YOUNG "HAS FAILED TO HEAD OFF" A PROPOSAL PUT FORTH BY MILITATN, HARDLINE NATIONS CALLING FOR TOUGH ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. YOUNG, ACCORDING TO UPI, "CONCEDED" THAT DESPITE HIS WEEKLONG CAMPAIGN OF PERSONAL DIPLOMACY BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS "REMAIN SKEPTICAL" OF CARTER'S AFRICAN POLICIES, AND THAT YOUNG "ADMITTED THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS PROBABLY WILL NOT SUPPORT" THE STRONGLY WORDED DOCUMENT CRITIZING SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA EXPECTED TO BE ADOPTED.

4. IN SIDE-BAR STORY, JUNE GOODWIN SUGGESTS THAT IN THE UNLIKELY OCCURRENCE THAT SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LAST MINUTE REFUSES ADMISSION TO YOUNG --A PROSPECT THAT WOULD NOT SURPRISE YOUNG, ACCORDING TO GOODWIN -- IT WOULD MEAN

THE VIENNA TALKS HAD FAILED. YOUNG'S VISIT "HAD BEEN
APPROVED" BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT "BEFORE ALL
THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROTESTING BEGAN" AND IT WOULD "APPEAR
THAT THE FUROR WAS FOR INTERNAL SOUTH AFRICAN
POLITICAL CONSUMPTION," WITH EVEN THE "MORE LIBERAL
SOUTH AFRICAN PAPERS" PORTRAYING YOUNG AS "A BUFFOON
AND A RADICAL, AND A DANGEROUS ONE AT THAT."
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